



# The Martha Messenger

Community Newsletter of the Martha T. Berry MCF

September 2009

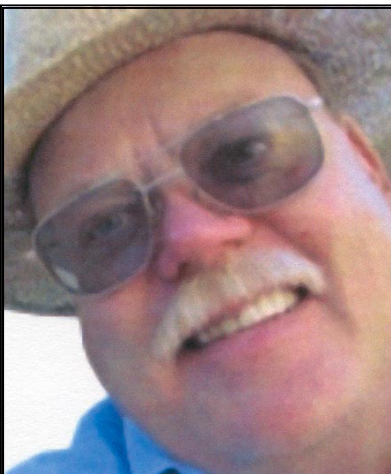
Volume 10

## *Summer Fades Away And It Is Time For The Harvest*



### **MTB Courtyard A Place Of Serenity And Beauty**

Enter Martha T. Berry MCF, walk through the lobby and first floor activity room and on to the courtyard beyond and you will enter upon a world of beauty, serenity and wonder...the Paul Abrahamson Memorial Gardens. This oasis in the midst of our facility is here for all to use and enjoy largely because of the dedication and skill of Paul who made it his special commitment.



Master Gardener  
Paul Abrahamson

Anniversary in 2007 and at that time Paul, together with Pat Meixsell, added a Cherokee Chief Dogwood tree to the courtyard to commemorate the event. Work continued and Paul enlisted the help of the residents, asking them to give suggestions and to name their favorite plants so that their ideas could be incorporated in the design. The



The Memorial Stone honors the memory of our Master Gardener, Paul.

Paul graduated from the Michigan State University Master Gardener Program in 1999 and then decided to go on and continue his education, becoming an Advanced Master Gardener. He began his work on the MTB courtyard in 2000. One of his first projects, utilizing the help of the Boy Scouts,

was the building of the raised flower beds. MTB was undergoing renovations at that time but work on the courtyard continued with Paul coordinating the efforts of other Master Gardeners who volunteered their time and efforts. The entire project took several years and, even before the courtyard was completed, in 2001 it was nominated for the Mt. Clemens Yard of the Year Award. "Keep Michigan Beautiful" observed its 45th



A section of the courtyard depicting an abundance and variety of plants in addition to a beautiful design.

courtyard is now completed and was dedicated on Thursday, August, 27, 2009. It is interesting to note that it was raining and skies were overcast on dedication day. However, the rain cleared and the weather improved enough to allow an outdoor ceremony,



Rev. Paul Alexander gives the invocation at the dedication ceremony.

as if nature itself was cooperating and permitting the service to take place in the garden area that Paul loved. The Welcome Address was given by Cyndi Davis, Interim Administrator, and the Opening Prayer was led by Paul Alexander, In-House Hospice Chaplain. Other program participants included Laurie Richards, Jim Glover, and Pat Meixsell. Refreshments were served during the reception that followed.



Residents, guests, and friends enjoy refreshments at the reception.

Paul received the Beautification Council of Michigan Individual Service Award for 2009. It is through his efforts that we, at Martha T. Berry, have a magnificent outdoor area to enjoy. However, even though Paul was aware that he had received this award, he passed away before he could

receive it. Nevertheless, his memory will live on here at Martha T. Berry. We will be forever grateful to Paul and to all the Master Gardeners who participated in the making of the "Paul Abrahamson Memorial Gardens." Daily, weather permitting, the gardens provide a place of rest, relaxation, and beauty for our residents and their guests.



Residents, staff, and guests observe the dedication ceremony.

Paul's dedication did not end at Martha T. Berry. He also was a reliable volunteer for the Mount Clemens Farmers' Market and for the Bath City Festivals as well as for Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township. He also was former president of the Beautification Council of Greater Michigan.



Jim Glover waits in an area of beautiful plantings during the dedication ceremony.



Pat Meixsell, Laurie Richards, and Jim Glover sharing a moving moment during the dedication.

We will forever remain grateful to Paul and his spirit will always live on here at Martha T. Berry Memorial Gardens. We are also grateful to the volunteer Master Gardeners, the Boy Scouts who participated in the work and to all who gave of their time, talent, and treasure to bring a site of grace and beauty to the residents, families, and friends of this facility. This beautiful setting will always be a magnificent oasis of flowers and friendship, a place of peace and quiet reflection, a scene of celebration and joy, a happy place where one can contemplate the wonders of nature. Thank you so much to all who played a role in its creation. Rest in peace, Paul.



The sound of trickling water adds to the peaceful ambience of the Paul Abrahamson Memorial Gardens.



# Car Club News



Rocco Dmaggione and his son Marco arrive at Martha T. Berry with engine.

It has been said that "All men love cars," and perhaps it is true. There is no way to really know the answer. However, what we do know is that there is a group of men right here in our midst at MTB who do. While membership is not "gentlemen only" so far only men have become members.



George Friedmann and Greg Ozga are delighted to see the engine arrive.

The men meet to share information, study new ideas and trends, and even build their own model cars. Mary Kelly, A&R Department member, acts as moderator.

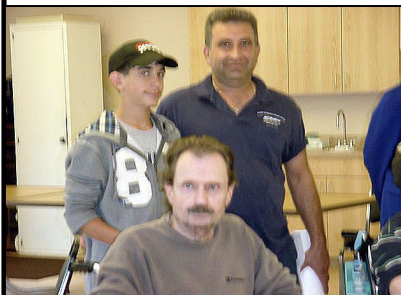
On Friday, August 28, Rocco Dmaggione, owner of Fraser Automotive donated a used 4 cylinder engine and engine stand to the members of

the Car Club. Many of the club members assembled to welcome Rocco and Marco and to do some car conversation. The men had an opportunity to ask questions of Rocco and to share what they remembered about car engines from past experience.



John Latella contemplates the workings of the engine.

When Rocco was told that the men wanted to take the engine apart, he was concerned about the residual oil in and on it. Not wanting the Car Club members or the facility to become oil splattered, he took the engine back to his shop for steam cleaning. He will bring it back spanking clean with 99.9% of the oil removed. It will look great at the coming Car Show.



Rocco, Marco, and Wayne Baker listen to the discussion taking place.



Car Club members gather around the newly arrived car engine.

Of course, the club members are excited about the Car Show which will take place on Saturday, August 12 from 1 to 4 PM and are looking forward to mingling with other car enthusiasts. Please



Michael Vitale points out some engine parts and operations to Mary Kelly.

plan to attend and have an interesting experience.

Thanks to Rocco for his generous donation of engine and engine stand. The men of the Car Club will certainly enjoy its use and learning value.

Thus far, two visitors have expressed interest in coming to work on the engine with the Car Club. All and any persons wanting to take part in club activities are invited to call Mary Kelly at (586) 369-5411 and inform her about their desire to assist the Car Club members.



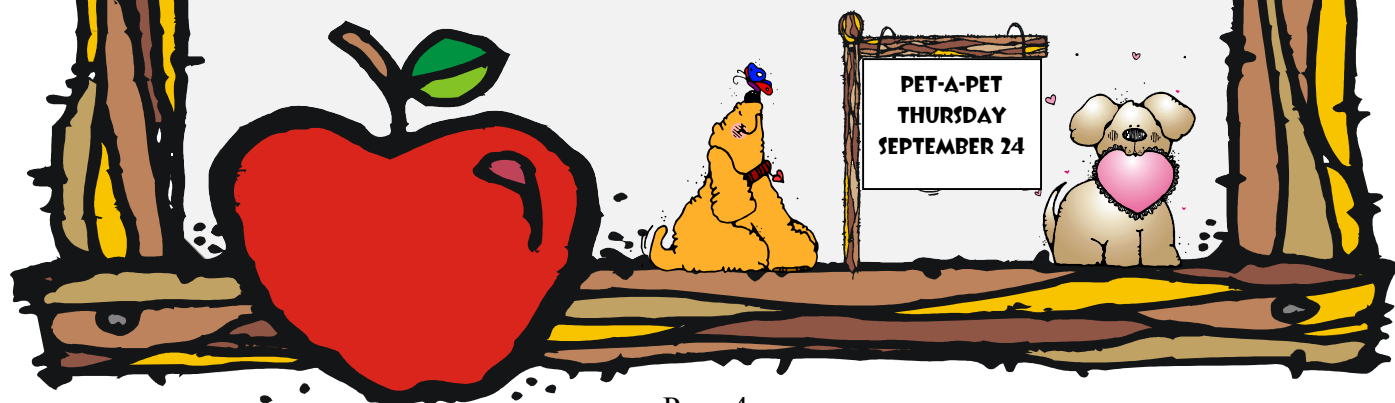
**Vera Bahlman, 9-3**  
**Maebelle Neyrinck, 9-8**  
**Thurlin Verwee, 9-8**  
**Joyce Hanselman, 9-9**  
**Leanore Cushman, 9-16**  
**Ralph Henry, 9-17**  
**Lue Bertha McKenzie, 9-17**  
**Cynthia Trexler, 9-17**

**Shirley Charbeneau, 9-18**  
**Mary Price, 9-19**  
**Robert Lindsay, 9-22**  
**Elizabeth Knoblauch, 9-27**  
**Michael Williams, 9-27**  
**June Clements, 9-28**  
**Sieglinde Bogetto, 9-28**  
**James Corbett, 9-30**

**Best Wishes for a Wonderful Birthday to All**



9/1 Resident Council	2:30 PM	9/17 Good Neighbor Bing	7:00 PM
9/1 Aunt Theresa Bingo	10:30 AM	9/17 Germack Nut Sale	8 AM-3 PM
9/4 Dollar Store	2:30 PM	9/19 Lioness Bingo	10:15 AM
9/5 King of Kings Bingo	10:30 AM	9/22 Memorial Service	3:30 PM
9/6 Knights of Columbus Rosary	2:00 PM	9/22 Cootie Bingo	7:30 PM
9/8 Visit from Reverend Hooks	2:30 PM	9/23 Red Hat Tea	2:30 PM
9/9 Birthday Bingo	2:30 PM	9/26 King of Kings Craft	10:30 AM
9/12 King of Kings Music Group	10:30 AM	9/29 Doll Show	2:30 PM
9/12 Car Show!!!	1 PM-4PM	9/30 Dollar Store	2:30 PM





## Residents' Corner



by Laurie Richards

The Resident Council meeting was held on August 4, 2009 at 2:30 PM. The Council was introduced to the new Dietary manager, Gary Baurhenn, and the group discussed the departments recent gains including more fresh fruit and fresh breads to be served in the future and supplied by local businesses. The Council expressed how much they enjoy the Wii games and would like to see them offered more often. The group also enjoyed the motorcycle show hosted by the Sons of the American Legion. Other topics addressed include changing the music offered overhead, staffing questions, and a facility and operations update was provided.

### Employees of the Month for September



Donna Dec is an all around good person.

**Donna Dec and Gina Blair** have been selected as employees of the month. Donna's first connection with MTB took place years ago when her father was a resident here and she visited him daily. She is described by residents as an all around good person who is also friendly and courteous. She is a CNA who also works in restorative care.

Gina is one-half of a family duo of CNAs since her sister, Lanita Simpkins also is an employee here. Residents



Gina Blair is happy to be of assistance.

who nominated Gina say that she is always smiling and is always happy to be of assistance. While Gina is a CNA, she also assists in the central supply room as needed. Both Donna and Gina are dedicated and professional employees. Congratulations Donna and Gina!



### Cyndi Says.....



We are a step closer to being a provider for Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Michigan since BCBS has now assigned a Provider Number to Martha T. Berry MCF. We will be able to accept patients who have BCBS as their primary health insurance. We are notifying area hospitals and will soon be accepting our first patients. In addition, BCBS is sending a representative to present and explain the forms we will be using for these patients who are admitted to the short term unit.

Because of Paul Abrahamson's involvement in the development of our beautiful courtyard, the residents have requested that it be named the Paul Abrahamson Memorial Gardens. Thank you to all those involved in this project and in the beautiful dedication ceremony as well. Sincere thanks to all the staff members who work hard and long and whose dedication makes Martha T. Berry MCF an outstanding facility. Know that you are greatly appreciated.

# Happy Birthday To Our Featured Residents for September



Michael Williams is our youngest birthday celebrant this month.

**Michael Williams** is the youngest Martha T. Berry resident celebrating a birthday in September. Michael was born in Euaula, Alabama on September 27, 1959, and is the seventh child in a family of ten. As the only boy, he had the attention of nine sisters when growing up. He lived on a farm and recalls helping his father with the chores. His father started his own logging business and Michael was a reliable helper there as well. Michael says that attending church was also very important to the family. For fun, there was always basketball and baseball. Michael always had a dog and he fondly recalls his favorite, Buster who was a kind of Collie mix. When the school bus pulled up, Buster would be there waiting and wagging his tail in greeting. When Michael was about fourteen or so, the family moved to Pontiac, Michigan where he attended Northern High School. After graduation, he went to work at GM as an assembly line worker and moved up to the position of coordinator where he met with

workers, handling customer issues and solving problems. Michael has five sons. The fourth youngest just started Wayne State University and is majoring in music. He is proud of his three grandchildren. Because of a car accident, Michael came to MTB in April of 2001. He keeps busy listening to Gospel Music and keeping informed about current events. Enjoying the second floor courtyard is one of his favorite pastimes. Michael describes himself as a private person but also says that he enjoys company and would welcome a visit from anyone who might want to stop by. We wish him a very special and happy birthday.

Also celebrating a birthday this month is **Lue Bertha McKenzie** whose special day is September 17th. Lou was born in Wynoma, a small town in Mississippi. She is the second oldest child, the only girl in a family of nine. She was her mother's helper, caring for her younger brothers. Topsy, her favorite dog, is one of her fond childhood memories. Lou attended school in MS at the time schools there were segregated. Children rode the bus to school with only the white children allowed to sit in the front. She earned her high school diploma at Vaden Negro High School and began working immediately after graduation doing housework



Lue Bertha McKenzie worked as an LPN for over twenty years.

for others while working at a hospital as well. Lou and her husband Benjamin were married and relocated to Detroit, hoping to find better jobs. Lou was a restaurant cook and worked as an aide at a nursing home. She went on to earn her LPN and worked at Sinai Hospital in Detroit for over twenty years. Sinai Hospital adopted a policy of hiring only RNs so Lou began doing private duty nursing, attending Marygrove College and working toward an RN. While she was caring for one of her homebound patients, Lou had the first of three strokes. Lou now resides at Martha T. Berry and says that she appreciates the care she receives here. She says that she loves her two children and her four grandchildren very, very much. A deeply spiritual person, Lou prays often. She has been a loving, caring, and devoted mother and a hard worker all her life. Stop by to chat and extend very happy birthday wishes to Lou Bertha on 2A.



## *In Loving Memory*

*Phillip Timmons*

*Geraldine Maas*

*Joseph Monty*

*Hilliard Code*

*Deanna Norkiewicz*

*Our Most Sincere Sympathy Is  
Extended to Family and Friends*

***September Poetry by Lenore Plowchan, Resident Poet***

September 7th is Labor Day. Yes it is the end of summer.  
Reflect on trips you have taken. It is time to remember.

September 13th is Grandparents' Day. It's time they were  
saluted. They are the backbone of many families but  
are sometimes taken for granted.

September 22nd is the first day of Autumn, a time of changing season.  
Fall is densely in the air. There is no rhyme or reason,  
In our mitten shaped state there is lots to see or do.  
Pick a bushel of apples if you like or visit a cider mill too.



***The Martha Messenger Is Brought To You Through the Kindness And Generosity of***

Denise Wilson,	Jan Weiss	The Activities Staff	Tom Murphy
Kathy Lesniak	Ruth & Sergio Barrientez,	Sally Wheeler	Chris Cronin's Family
Shendel Family	Gregory & Judith Zdankiewicz	Sue Chadda	Victoria Kapp
Douglas & Deborah DeMeester	Diane Gracher	In memory of Shaun	
Susan Kozemko	Anonymous	Marty Mok in memory of Al Mok	Ketty Cueter
Sharon Tomkowiak	Emily Krueger	Roger Facione	
Saint Athanasius Church	Litho Printing		

**YEA for YOU!**

## Welcome New Residents

**Genevieve Mancini     Mandy Sheadrick**

**Maria Cellitti     Allan Lahti     Robert Street**

**Edna Nyboer**

**Best Wishes to Karen Loos  
who has returned  
Home.**



Phillip Timmons who spent most of his life at Martha T. Berry passed away on Wednesday, August 19. He will be missed by many of us here. This poem was one of the readings at his funeral service...

### **Farewell to Phillip    by Rita Shendel**

You came to us on a long ago day,  
Unable to walk or speak or play.  
No where else to live or go,  
This, the only home you know.

An accident brought you to this door.  
The life that was, you knew no more.  
But a new life here calmed your fears,  
Made you secure and dried your tears.

Sheltered within Martha T. Berry's walls,  
Your childhood was spent in her halls.  
Through the months and years of life's span,  
You grew from child, to youth, to man.

Without knowledge of much that life can give,  
Because of the way you were destined to live,  
Yet, you faced life with your special grace,  
With love in your heart, a smile on your face.

Some days were not easy, some hard to bear,  
Yet all those who cared were ever there,  
To offer you aid in both word and deed,  
To answer your call and tend to your need.

The years passed by and so we became,  
The only family that you could claim.  
Through love and care, a bond within  
Was formed, we became your kin.

As your brothers and sisters, it is now time to tell,  
You a final good-by and send you to dwell,  
In a land that is free of sickness and pain.  
Farewell, dear Phillip, till we meet once again.

May you run through the stars and dance on a cloud,  
May you shout for joy, may your song be loud,  
And someday, when our own time will be past,  
Let us party together in heaven at last!

## Announcing the First Annual MTB Doll Show

**September 29, 2009 at 2:30 PM**

### **First Floor Activity Room**

**All Staff, Residents, Family Members, Collectors and Enthusiasts  
are welcome. Please contact Mary Kelly if you plan to  
enter a doll.**

**Mary Kelly (586) 469-5506**

**Activities and Recreation Department**

